

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Withdrawn) A pants-type disposable wearing article, comprising:

a longitudinal direction,

a waist-surrounding direction orthogonal to said longitudinal direction,

a chassis defining a front waist region, a rear waist region, a crotch region extending in said longitudinal direction between said front and rear waist regions, an elasticized waist-hole, and a pair of elasticized leg-holes,

an absorbent structure extending on an inner surface of said chassis between said front and rear waist regions, and

a plurality of auxiliary elastic members secured to said chassis in a stretched state and extending in said waist surrounding direction so as to cross said absorbent structure in at least one of said front and rear waist regions, each of said auxiliary elastic members having, in said waist surrounding direction, opposite end portions and a middle portion located between said opposite end portions,

said opposite end portions being secured to said chassis in vicinities of transversely opposite side edges of the one of said front and rear waist regions while said middle portion being free of direct securement to said chassis in the one of said front and rear waist regions,

wherein

said chassis comprises an outer sheet and an inner sheet directly joined together at a

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plurality of joining sites;

said plurality of auxiliary elastic members are interposed between said outer and inner sheets;

said plurality of joining sites are distributed at least in an area of said absorbent structure in the one of front and rear waist regions, are spaced one from another by given space in said longitudinal direction and are located between the middle portions of said auxiliary elastic members;

each of said auxiliary elastic members is entirely free of direct attachment to said chassis except at the opposite end portions of said auxiliary elastic member; and

the joining sites are each in the form of a dot and comprise

first joining sites arranged in the longitudinal direction in a middle zone of the absorbent structure,

second joining sites arranged in the longitudinal direction on both sides of the first joining sites, and

third joining sites arranged in the longitudinal direction on both sides of the second joining sites and in the vicinity of the transversely opposite side edges of the absorbent structure.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 15, wherein a length of each of said auxiliary elastic members in the waist-surrounding direction as measured in an unstretched state thereof is substantially equal to a width of the absorbent structure in the waist-surrounding direction in the one of said front and rear waist regions.

6. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 16, further comprising, in the one of said front and rear waist regions, a picture on said chassis in an area underlying said absorbent structure.

7. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 3, wherein said absorbent structure comprises a liquid-pervious inner sheet adapted to face a wearer's body, a substantially liquid-impervious outer sheet bonded to the inner sheet of said chassis, and a liquid-absorbent core disposed between said liquid-pervious inner sheet and said substantially liquid-impervious outer sheet, wherein said substantially liquid-impervious outer sheet is disposed between the liquid-absorbent core and the inner sheet of said chassis.

8. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 3, wherein said absorbent structure comprises a liquid-pervious inner sheet, and a liquid-absorbent core having a top surface thereof covered with said liquid-pervious inner sheet and a back surface thereof covered with said chassis.

9. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 3, wherein said front and rear waist regions of said chassis are permanently joined to each other at the transversely opposite side edges thereof to define said elasticized waist-hole and elasticized leg-holes.

10. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 3, further comprising a pair of leakage-barrier flaps that extend along transversely opposite side edges of said absorbent structure.

11. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 3, wherein a length of said auxiliary elastic members in the waist-surrounding direction as measured in a contracted, unstretched state thereof is equal to a width of the absorbent structure in the one of said front and rear waist regions.

12. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 3, wherein a length of said auxiliary elastic members in the waist-surrounding direction as measured in a contracted, unstretched state thereof is greater than a width of the absorbent structure in the waist-surrounding direction in the one of said

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front and rear waist regions by 1-5 mm.

13. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 3, wherein
the middle portion of each of said auxiliary elastic members connects the opposite end portions of said auxiliary elastic member, and extends across an entire width of said absorbent structure in the waist-surrounding direction from one of transversely opposite side edges of said absorbent structure to the other; and

an entire section of said middle portion which is located between the transversely opposite side edges of said absorbent structure is directly bonded neither to the inner sheet nor to the outer sheet.

14. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 13, wherein said joining sites are distributed between every pair of adjacent said auxiliary elastic members and all said joining sites are distributed between the transversely opposite side edges of said absorbent structure.

15. **(Currently Amended)** A pants-type disposable wearing article, comprising:
a longitudinal direction,
a waist-surrounding direction orthogonal to said longitudinal direction,
a chassis defining a front waist region, a rear waist region, a crotch region extending in said longitudinal direction between said front and rear waist regions, an elasticized waist-hole, and a pair of elasticized leg-holes,

an absorbent structure extending on an inner surface of said chassis between said front and rear waist regions, and

a plurality of auxiliary elastic members secured to said chassis in a stretched state and extending in said waist surrounding direction so as to cross said absorbent structure in at least one of said front and rear waist regions, each of said auxiliary elastic members having, in said waist surrounding direction, opposite end portions and a middle portion located between said opposite

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end portions,

said opposite end portions being secured to said chassis in vicinities of transversely opposite side edges of the one of said front and rear waist regions while said middle portion being free of direct securement to said chassis in the one of said front and rear waist regions,

wherein

said chassis comprises an outer sheet and an inner sheet directly joined together at a plurality of joining sites;

said plurality of auxiliary elastic members are interposed between said outer and inner sheets;

said plurality of joining sites are distributed at least in an area of said absorbent structure in the one of front and rear waist regions, are spaced one from another by given space in said longitudinal direction and are located between the middle portions of said auxiliary elastic members;

each of said auxiliary elastic members is entirely free of direct attachment to said chassis except at the opposite end portions of said auxiliary elastic member;

the joining sites are each in the form of a dot and are all arranged only along[,] and in vicinities of ~~and between~~ the transversely opposite side edges of said absorbent structure in the one of the front and rear waist regions; and

a number of said joining sites are located between the middle portions of adjacent said auxiliary elastic members.

16. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 14, wherein said joining sites define limits of displacement of the middle portions of said auxiliary elastic members in the longitudinal direction, without affecting contractibility of said middle portions in the waist-surrounding direction.

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18. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 6, wherein the middle portions of some of said auxiliary elastic members underlie and extend across said picture without causing gathers to be formed in the area of said chassis, thereby preventing the picture in said area from being distorted.

19. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 18, wherein all said auxiliary elastic members are disposed between and spaced in the longitudinal direction from said elasticized waist hole and said elasticized leg holes.

20. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 16, wherein an entire area of said chassis, which underlies said absorbent structure and across which said auxiliary elastic members extend, are substantially free of gathers.

21. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 16, wherein some of the joining sites are disposed, in the longitudinal direction, between the middle portion of a topmost one of the auxiliary elastic members and a longitudinal end of the absorbent structure in said at least one of said front and rear waist regions so as to prevent the middle portions of the topmost auxiliary elastic member from moving in the longitudinal direction beyond said longitudinal end of the absorbent structure;

the topmost auxiliary elastic member being closest, in the longitudinal direction, to the waist-hole among all said auxiliary elastic members; and

said longitudinal end of the absorbent structure being located, in the longitudinal direction, between the topmost auxiliary elastic member and the waist-hole.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously presented) The article according to claim 15, wherein

the middle portion of each of said auxiliary elastic members connects the opposite end portions of said auxiliary elastic member, and extends across an entire width of said absorbent

structure in the waist-surrounding direction from one of transversely opposite side edges of said absorbent structure to the other; and

an entire section of said middle portion which is located between the transversely opposite side edges of said absorbent structure is directly bonded neither to the inner sheet nor to the outer sheet.

24. (Withdrawn) The article according to claim 23, wherein said joining sites are distributed between every pair of adjacent said auxiliary elastic members and all said joining sites are distributed between the transversely opposite side edges of said absorbent structure.

25. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 24, wherein said joining sites define limits of displacement of the middle portions of said auxiliary elastic members in the longitudinal direction, without affecting contractibility of said middle portions in the waist-surrounding direction.

26. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 25, wherein some of the joining sites are disposed, in the longitudinal direction, between the middle portion of a topmost one of the auxiliary elastic members and a longitudinal end of the absorbent structure in said at least one of said front and rear waist regions so as to prevent the middle portions of the topmost auxiliary elastic member from moving in the longitudinal direction beyond said longitudinal end of the absorbent structure;

the topmost auxiliary elastic member being closest, in the longitudinal direction, to the waist-hole among all said auxiliary elastic members; and

said longitudinal end of the absorbent structure being located, in the longitudinal direction, between the topmost auxiliary elastic member and the waist-hole.

27. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 26, wherein said length of said auxiliary elastic members in the waist-surrounding direction as measured in the unstretched state thereof is less than a half of a circumference of the waist hole.

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28. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 7, wherein said inner and outer sheets of said chassis are both liquid-impervious.

29. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 28, wherein said inner and outer sheets of said chassis are coextensive throughout their entireties.